

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 22, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 5, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 51

Introduced by Senator Perata

(Coauthors: Senators Ashburn, Battin, Bowen, and Cedillo)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Arambula, Baca, Bass, Benoit, Berg, Bermudez, Blakeslee, Bogh, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chan, Chavez, Chu, Cogdill, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, DeVore, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Garcia, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Huff, Jones, Karnette, Keene, Klehs, Koretz, La Malfa, La Suer, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Liu, Matthews, Maze, Montanez, Mountjoy, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Pavley, Plescia, Richman, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Spitzer, Strickland, Torrico, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Walters, Wolk, Wyland, and Yee)

June 8, 2005

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to autism spectrum disorders.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 51, as amended, Perata. Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism.

This measure would establish, until November 30, 2007, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. The measure would require the commission to report related findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature no later than September 30, 2007.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Autism and autism spectrum disorders, or ASD,
2 are neurodevelopmental disorders of unknown etiology that may
3 cause significant impairments in language, communications,
4 social interactions, abnormalities in behaviors, and other physical
5 manifestations; and

6 WHEREAS, Autism spectrum disorders are abnormalities of
7 brain development and function that are typically diagnosed
8 during the first three years of life, are four times more likely to
9 occur in males than females, and impact all segments of
10 California's population regardless of race, ethnicity,
11 socioeconomic status, or other factors; and

12 WHEREAS, Autism is the fastest growing serious
13 developmental disability in California. Presently, one out of
14 every 166 children is afflicted with some form of autism
15 spectrum disorder; and

16 WHEREAS, The State Department of Developmental Services
17 (DDS) has established that California's autism caseload
18 increased by 634 percent from 1987 to the end of 2002. In the
19 four years between 1998 and 2002, the total number of persons
20 with autism served by the regional centers had more than
21 doubled and had reached 20,377. Presently, there is a net increase
22 of approximately 3,000 persons with autism added to the DDS
23 service delivery system annually; and

24 WHEREAS, The percentage increase in the number of
25 individuals with autism who received services from DDS during
26 the first quarter of 2005 more than tripled the percentage increase
27 in the number of individuals for the three other primary types of
28 developmental disability combined; and

29 WHEREAS, At present, approximately 77 percent of all
30 individuals with autism served by DDS are under the age of 18
31 years; and

32 WHEREAS, The State Department of Education reported that
33 in the 1992-93 school year, there were 1,982 students enrolled
34 with autism in grades K-12, while in 2004, the number of
35 students with autism had increased to 21,948; and

36 WHEREAS, The number of students with autism enrolled in
37 grades K-12 has increased over 1,000 percent during the past 22
38 years; and

39 WHEREAS, The State Department of Education reports that
40 nearly every part of California has seen a doubling of the

1 incidence of students with autism in grades K-12 over the past
2 four years alone; and

3 WHEREAS, The number of students with autism in proportion
4 to the total student enrollment, and also in proportion to students
5 enrolled in special education, has more than quadrupled during
6 the last nine years; and

7 WHEREAS, The State Department of Education reports that
8 not only are there drastically more K-12 students afflicted with
9 autism, but the students with autism comprise a significantly
10 greater proportion of the special education population; and

11 WHEREAS, The economic impact of autism in the United
12 States is more than \$90 billion annually and is expected to more
13 than double in the next decade; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislative Blue Ribbon
16 Commission on Autism is hereby established to study and
17 investigate issues, including, but not limited to, the early
18 identification and intervention of autism spectrum disorders
19 (ASD). Further, the commission shall identify gaps in programs,
20 services, and funding related to the early identification of ASD
21 and provide recommendations to close the identified gaps; and be
22 it further

23 *Resolved*, That the commission shall identify gaps in programs
24 and services related to the education and treatment of children,
25 adolescents, transitional youth, and adults with autism spectrum
26 disorders. Further, the commission shall provide
27 recommendations for the planning of a comprehensive and
28 integrated continuum of programs, services, and funding that will
29 be required to address the “aging out” of children who comprise
30 the current autism epidemic; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the commission shall consist of 16 members,
32 who shall include eight members appointed by the Senate
33 Committee on Rules and eight members appointed by the
34 Speaker of the Assembly; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the commission shall be under the direction of
36 a chair, selected from among its members and appointed by the
37 Senate Committee on Rules, and a vice chair, selected from
38 among its members and appointed by the Speaker of the
39 Assembly; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the commission shall submit one or more
2 reports to the Legislature and to the Governor, including its
3 findings and recommendations by no later than September 30,
4 2007; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the commission is authorized to act until
6 November 30, 2007; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the commission shall seek funding, technical
8 assistance, and other resources from foundations and other
9 organizations as long as that support would not pose any conflict
10 of interest and would be deemed as consistent with the goals and
11 objectives of the commission; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the work of the commission may be supported
13 by legislative staff and services as determined by the respective
14 rules committees; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the commission and its members shall have and
16 exercise all the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon
17 commissions and their members by the Joint Rules of the Senate
18 and the Assembly, as they are adopted and amended from time to
19 time, and the pertinent provisions of the Joint Rules shall be
20 applicable to this commission and its members.